

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 982 because it will allow community college health centers to continue operating and providing health services to students.

It is important to me that all students have the opportunity to thrive in higher education. Ensuring that all college students continue to have access to health care services on campuses is one step in that direction. For many low income students, the campus health centers may be the most expedient and effective health care they can receive. We should never allow health issues to be an impediment to providing hard working students the chance to succeed at California's outstanding community colleges.

While this bill allows community college districts to charge the same modest fee on all their students, regardless of income level, I encourage districts to reassess all of their spending priorities annually to ensure their campus health centers are not reducing hours or staff, before considering the step of charging fees to lower income students. Community colleges should make every effort to keep campus based fees on lower income students as affordable as possible.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger